

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) The data reporting system does not generate the district-wise break-up of the relief provided to beneficiaries under Agricultural and Rural Debt Relief (ARDR) Scheme, 1990 which came to an end on 31.3.1991. However, as per reports received from banks, 51.81 lakh beneficiaries have

been provided relief under the Scheme to the extent of Rs. 1047.49 crores by public sector banks, cooperative banks and Regional Rural Banks in Uttar Pradesh.

(b) A sum of Rs. 322.36 crores was sanctioned and released to the cooperative in Uttar Pradesh as per details given below:

(Rs. in crores)

Bank	Amount of debt relief provided	Amount released by NABARD		
		Loan	Grant	Total
SCB	545.95	128.16	128.16	256.32
SLDB	101.33	33.02	33.02	66.04
Total	647.28	161.18	161.18	322.36

Production at Bharat Electronics Limited, Ghaziabad

747. SHRI SURENDRA PAL PATHAK: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total value of orders received by Ghaziabad units of Bharat Electronics Limited for manufacturing Radar Microwave and communication instruments during 1991-92;

(b) the target achieved as against the target fixed for production by the unit during this above period;

(c) whether the Government are aware of the fall in production of various products in this unit; and

(d) if so, the steps propose to take to overcome it?

RAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) The total value of orders received upto 20 February, 1992, by the Ghaziabad Unit of Bharat Electronics Limited for manufacturing Radar, Microwave and communication instruments during 1991-92 is Rs. 13.70 crores. In addition, existing Letters of Intent with financial commitment worth Rs. 26.02 crores were converted to firm orders during the same period.

(b) During April, 91-January, 92, the actual production is Rs. 56.82 crores as against the target of Rs. 59.22 cores.

(c) and (d). The Company are confident of achieving the targetted production by the end of 1991-92.

Conversion of Handloom Industries into Powerloom Industries

748. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATU-

(a) whether the Government have received applications from several States for conversion of the handloom industries into powerloom industries;

(b) if so, the details thereof Statewise;

(c) the reaction of the Government in this regard;

(d) whether the handloom and powerloom industry of Rajasthan is on the verge of closure due to the continuous increase in the prices of raw material and non-availability of raw material from the central agencies; and

(e) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Requests have been received from the States of Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra for providing subsidy and loan for such conversion.

(c) As a matter of policy, Government is committed to protection of handlooms and is, at the same time, agreeable to the growth of powerloom sector to the extent it does not impinge on the handlooms. Requests received from Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu have not been supported for this reason.

(d) Increase in the prices of raw material has affected the handlooms and powerlooms all over the country, including Rajasthan, but there are not reports of scarcity of yarn, dyes and chemicals which are the necessary raw materials for both these sectors.

(e) The main reason for increase in yarn prices has been the abnormal increase in

raw cotton prices. Government is constantly reviewing the price situation. The spinning mills, in the private sector have been persuaded to supply yarn to handloom weavers at moderately reduced prices. Mills in the cooperative and State sectors have been asked to augment production of yarn counts more in demand in the handloom sector. State Governments have also been requested to open yarn depots in areas of yarn shortage. National Handloom Development Corporation has been directed to augment its yarn supply operations. Government is following a cautious policy in regard to yarn exports and also cotton exports keeping in mind the prevailing prices of yarn in the internal market. Silk yarn prices have also risen sharply in recent months and as a measure to help silk handloom weavers, Central Silk Board has been assigned the task of importing the silk yarn.

[English]

Nationalised Banks

750. KUMARI PUSHPA DEVI SINGH:
SHRI SUKHDEO PASWAN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state the number of branches of the various nationalised banks functioning at present, State-wise and district-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): There were 41776 branches of Public Sector Banks functioning in the country as on 19.2.92. The time and labour involved in listing out the district-wise number of branches of Public Sector Banks functioning in the country may not commensurate with the objectives to be achieved. However, the State-wise/Union Territory-wise break up of these branches is given in the Statement attached.